

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
HEALTH STRATEGIES COUNCIL**

Department of Community Health, Division of Health Planning  
2 Peachtree Street, Suite 34.262  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3159  
Friday, May 31, 2002  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm ■ Conference Rooms 3A&B, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Daniel W. Rahn, M.D., Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

William G. Baker, Jr., MD  
Honorable Glenda M. Battle, RN, BSN  
Harve R. Bauguess  
David Bedell, DVM  
Edward J. Bonn  
W. Clay Campbell  
Nelson B. Conger, DMD  
Katie B. Foster  
Charlene M. Hanson, Ed.D., FNP  
Sonia Kuniarsky  
Reverend Ike E. Mack  
Felix Maher, DMD  
Julia L. Mikell, MD  
James G. Peak  
Raymer Martin Sale, Jr.  
Toby D. Sidman  
Catherine Slade  
Tracy M. Strickland  
Katherine L. Wetherbee  
David M. Williams, MD

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Allie Baxter, Gill/Balsano  
Jeff Baxter, Nelson Mullins  
Charlotte W. Bedell, Tift County Commissioner  
Sylvia Caley, SEIU  
Martha Phillips, Georgia Dental Association  
Kevin Rowley, St. Francis Hospital  
Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Elizabeth P. Brock  
Anthony J. Braswell  
Tary Brown  
Honorable Evelyn Turner Pugh  
Oscar S. Spivey, MD  
Kurt M. Stuenkel, FACHE

**STAFF PRESENT**

Valerie Hepburn  
Jamillah McDaniel  
Ben Robinson  
Clyde L. Reese, III, Esq.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Daniel Rahn, Chair of the Council, called the second quarterly meeting of the Council to order at 11:10am. Dr. Rahn reviewed and highlighted the minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, which had been previously mailed to members. Based on unanimous consensus from the Council, the minutes were adopted.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Rahn recognized DCH General Counsel, Clyde Reese to provide the Council with an update on department activities. Mr. Reese began by sharing correspondence from Commissioner Gary Redding regarding recent organizational changes in DCH. Mr. Reese highlighted key aspects of these changes and underscored the Commissioner's commitment to use the corporate model in managing the department. He then presented information about the actions taken during the past session of the General Assembly and shared a summary report on legislation prepared by DCH staff. He answered questions posed by Council members.

Mr. Reese further shared information about the upcoming budget forums that will be held in conjunction with the Department of Human Resources. Information on forum dates and locations were included in members' folders. The Atlanta forum for the Department of Community Health will be scheduled separately. Staff will provide this information to the Council members.

Mr. Reese then specifically referenced SR910, which calls for the creation of a Senate Study Committee on health care issues including access and affordability. He shared briefly how the resolution was developed and what aspects the Committee might address. Members asked to be informed about the committee membership and any meeting details as they become available. Members were also interested in the Governor's Action Group on the Accessibility and Affordability of Health Insurance, and requested that staff provide them with information on the group's work.

Dr. Rahn and Council members thanked Mr. Reese for his helpful report.

## **DIVISION UPDATE**

Dr. Rahn recognized Valerie Hepburn to present the update from the Division of Health Planning. Ms. Hepburn gave more detail on the role of the Division of Health Planning following the reorganization, and the continued working relationship with the Office of General Counsel. She reinforced that most customers of the Department should experience a seamless transition and decreased duplication. Ms. Hepburn talked about the Division's work with survey collection and electronic dissemination of information for the public and provider groups. She touched on the activities of the GIS partnership with the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia, and the work underway to create a new database and forecasting system for health care workforce planning. Ms. Hepburn also mentioned the work underway with the Board of Regents to initiate expanded programs in nursing and other health professions.

Dr. Rahn asked Mr. Reese and Ms. Hepburn to update the Council on budget issues, particularly Medicaid in light of recent budget constraints and the economic downturn. They reported that all state agencies have been asked to reserve 1% of the budget during the next fiscal year so as to plan for potential shortfall. However, Medicaid benefits have been specifically exempted from this withholding. In future budget plans,

the department is considering ways to manage any further reductions. Medicaid budgets are tight throughout the country due to state revenue limits, increasing consumer need, and federal deficit spending. Georgia has been in a much better shape than most of the other states.

## **REPORT FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES AND BYLAWS**

Dr. Rahn recognized Raymer Sale to present the report from the Ad Hoc Committee, on behalf of Elizabeth Brock who was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Sale reviewed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the recommended changes to the Bylaws, which had been previously mailed to the Committee. At the suggestion of the Chair, the Council agreed to consider the amendments to the bylaws separately from the recommendations for organizational issues. Based on the Committee's report, the proposal is put before the Council for action. Glenda Battle pointed out a typographical error in Section 8. Staff has agreed to make the appropriate corrections. The Council unanimously adopted the recommended changes to the bylaws.

Organizational issues considered by the Council were:

1. Recommend to the Commissioner and the Governor that the Health Strategies Council law be amended to cap out membership at the current 27. The current 27-member council is sufficient in size and appropriately balanced between consumers, providers and professions. Adding members will increase cost and create group size challenges. If the law is not changed, two more members (another primary care dentist and another special populations representative) will be added as a result of the additional Congressional district beginning in 2003.
2. Recommend that the regularly scheduled Health Strategies Council meetings be moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Month of the Quarter (currently the regular schedule is 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday). This change will allow a more orderly and timely flow of recommendations and proposed rules to the Board of Community Health, which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month.
3. Recommend that regular meetings be held from 11am to 1pm (or shortly thereafter) to allow members to leave before Friday travel becomes too difficult and to allow members to get home in a timely fashion.
4. Recommend that at least one (1) of the regularly scheduled quarterly meetings be held in a location other than Atlanta. Locations could be rotated throughout the various regions of the state.
5. Recommend that information about the ongoing work of the HSC be posted on the Department's website.

Several members requested clarification on the issue of membership on the Council and how the proposals would affect current and future members. Dr. Rahn asked Ms. Hepburn to clarify this issue. Ms. Hepburn clarified that the Council's recommendations regarding capping the membership at the current composition of 27 would require legislative action; the action of the Council would simply ensure that the Governor and Commissioner were apprised of the Council's thoughts on membership. A few members felt that the meeting outside of Atlanta should be optional for the Council, particularly if it might result in an inability to secure a quorum of members. Other members indicated that a site visit in conjunction with the meeting would be beneficial. Following discussion and based on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee,

the Council unanimously adopted the organizational recommendations. Mr. Sale and Dr. Rahn acknowledged the hard work of the Ad Hoc Committee members which included Elizabeth Brock, Raymer Sale, Dr. David Bedell, Tary Brown, Clay Campbell, Katie Foster, and Chuckie Hanson.

Dr. Rahn suggested a ten (10) minute meeting break to allow Council members to get their boxed lunches and then return to finish the agenda.

## CHAIR'S REPORT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Following the brief lunch break, Dr. Rahn reconvened the meeting and began with the Chair's Report. As a result of the bylaws changes, three new standing committees and an Executive Committee have been created. The chair is responsible for the appointment of these committees and officers. Dr. Rahn announced the following appointments which have been accepted by the members:

Vice-Chair of the Council:	Elizabeth Brock
Chair, Acute Care Committee:	Kurt Stuenkel
Chair, Long Term Care Committee:	Clay Campbell
Chair, Special and Other Services Committee:	David Williams, MD

Council members will have the opportunity to select the Committee on which they wish to serve. Dr. Rahn asked that each member agree to serve on at least one committee. ***Council members are asked to contact Valerie Hepburn by June 30<sup>th</sup>, to indicate their interest in serving.*** Prior to the next full Council meeting, a committee membership listing will be made available to the full Council.

Based on the Council's action to change the regularly scheduled meeting dates, the next meetings of the Council will be held on:

Friday, August 23, 2002; 11:00am to 1:00pm

Friday, November 22, 2002; 11:00am to 1:00pm

The August meeting will be held in Atlanta and Russ Toal, president of the Georgia Cancer Coalition, will be asked to present to the Council. The Council asked that staff work on a plan to schedule the November meeting outside of Atlanta and to bring that information to the full group at the next meeting. Council members were encouraged to contact staff with any suggestions for agenda items or meeting locations.

## REPORT FROM THE HOME HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Rahn recognized Clay Campbell, Chair Home Health Services TAC to report on the work and recommendations of this group. Mr. Campbell reviewed the materials prepared by the TAC, which had previously been sent to Council members. The TAC is proposing some minor changes to the current regulatory rules. One change would allow the merger of two agencies or CONs owned by the same entity without going through the application process; this change is proposed to decrease burden and cost for providers. The other change would allow the Department to authorize an exception to the need methodology in the situation where a county is receiving a very low level of service. Some complaints have been received from consumers and discharging hospitals, particularly in rural areas, that services are not available.

The TAC also revisited and clarified guidelines from the current rules. The TAC's work will be added to the Component Plan as an addendum to reaffirm these points. Mr. Campbell addressed questions from the Committee and some discussion ensued on the need methodology. Based on the recommendation of the TAC, the Council unanimously adopted the plan clarifications and proposed rule changes. Dr. Rahn thanked Mr. Campbell and the TAC for their work and encouraged them to keep monitoring the impact of Medicare changes so the Council could remain up-to-date.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE SPECIFIC RULES**

Dr. Rahn called on Ms. Hepburn to provide an overview of the administrative rule changes being proposed by the Department. The draft of these changes had been sent to the Council in advance. The objective is to make the necessary changes in the rules to reflect the formation of the Department of Community Health and to streamline certain filing and reporting functions. The Department considers these changes to be housekeeping in nature and, while they do not require Council approval, the Department wanted to present them for review and suggestion. Dr. Rahn asked Ms. Hepburn to provide the Council an overview of the rule making process so that they would better understand time frames for presenting material to the Board of Community Health and the public comment process.

Mr. Reese then discussed the forthcoming proposal to change certain service specific rules that now have a variance provision which one court has declared unconstitutional. These rules relate to Ambulatory Surgical Services, Perinatal Services and Psychiatric/Substance Abuse Services. The department will probably propose changing this provision to track language used in more recently adopted rules that stipulates the ability to grant an exception due to atypical barriers to services based on cost, quality, financial access, or geographic accessibility. Because so many other issues will be presented to the Board of Community Health at their June meeting, these changes will not be presented until July or thereafter. The staff will share these items with the executive committee before presenting to the Board, and the Council will be kept informed.

One of the changes proposed in the administrative rules would allow the Council to consider options for Alternative Healthcare Models on an annual basis. Cathy Slade suggested that one or more of the standing committees might need to begin preparing for next year's process because of the amount of work and precision involved in these efforts.

## **UPDATE FROM THE SHORT-STAY GENERAL HOSPITAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Rahn recognized Jim Peak, Chair of Short Stay General Hospital TAC, to inform the Council of the group's activities. The TAC was appointed following the Council's meeting in February. They have had two meetings, and a third is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, on the 34<sup>th</sup> Floor, 2 Peachtree. The Council had a membership list and the Committee charge in their folders. Mr. Peak talked about the work of the group in developing a preliminary set of principles and values, ranging from phantom beds to indigent care. TAC members are particularly sensitive to the needs of rural hospitals and regarding the preservation of safety net access. Mr. Peak acknowledged the hard work of the staff in pulling together resource information for the TAC. He also recognized other Council members who are serving on the TAC: Dr. Buck Baker, Dr. David Williams, Ed Bonn, Kurt Stuenkel, and Cathy Slade. All interested Council members are invited to attend the TAC meetings.

## **UPDATE FROM THE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Chuckie Hanson was called upon to provide the Council with an update on the work of the Committee. She reported on the excellent progress made during the legislative session, with the passage of HB652 to establish standards for data collection and reporting and the budget approval for funding of nearly \$600,000 for DCH and Committee efforts and another \$1.5 million in funding for the Board of Regents. She also commended Glenn Newsome and the Georgia Student Finance Commission for their commitment of another \$3.1 million in funding for nursing and allied health service cancelable loans. Dr. Hanson reported on the recent meeting of the Committee in which Russ Toal presented workforce issues that need to be addressed by and with the Georgia Cancer Coalition. Following that meeting, the Committee participated in a bill signing ceremony with the Governor. Dr. Hanson also gave an overview of the research projects and marketing initiatives underway. The research project and annual report of the Policy Advisory Committee should be completed in time for presentation at the August meeting of the Council.

Dr. Nelson Conger asked Dr. Rahn about applications to the MCG dental school. Dr. Rahn indicated that they were seeing an improved caliber of student applicants, which was certainly positive, but they still were unable to produce enough graduates through the program to meet the tremendous need for services in Georgia. Oral health and access to services is a particular concern of the group.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

No additional business was brought before the Council. The next meeting of the Council will be held on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00am.

There being no further business, the Council adjourned at 1:20 p.m. Minutes taken on behalf of Chair by Jamillah McDaniel and Valerie Hepburn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel W. Rahn, M.D., Chair